

# **Union Township Environmental Commission**

## **Minutes of the April 14, 2009 Regular Meeting**

The April 14, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Union Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The notice of meeting as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express Times satisfied the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. The notice was also posted in the Municipal Building, on the Union Township website and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**I. Roll Call:**

Present: Bill Harclerode, Kathleen Corcoran, Steven Hurford, Chuck La Tournous, Chuck Neary (not present for roll call)

Absent: Michele McBride, Sandy Stiger, John Wingler

**II. Minutes**

Mr. LaTournous made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Hurford seconded. All approved.

**III. New Business and Chairmans Report**

1. Mr. Harclerode noted that a letter to the Highlands Coalition is being prepared by Mr. Hurford.
2. Stream cleanup will occur this Saturday for Earth Day.
3. Mr. Harclerode advised of an ANJEC Roundtable on Sat, May 2, 2009 re: sustainable NJ Green Certification.

**IV. Committee Reports:**

**Open Space Committee:** Mr. Harclerode noted that he has received a disc from ANJEC re: conservation easements and what to do about them.

**Property Stewardship:** Ms. McBride asked for a vote of approval of the draft Deed of Easement for the Agricultural Group to go before the Township Committee. Mrs. Corcoran made a motion for the Agricultural Group to move forward with this. Mr. Hurford seconded and all approved.

**V. Planning Board Report:**

Mrs. Corcoran stated the following:

1. The April 9 workshop meeting included an update from a Pilot official regarding the construction.
2. The Beylickjian proposed ECHO house was presented and discussed. A variance will be required to increase the size of the home above the allowable 750 square feet. There was some discussion regarding potential waivers to the standard application requirements.
3. There was some discussion at the last meeting re: the construction at the Busy Bee and the addition of diesel pumps, etc. Chairman Kirkpatrick indicated that the Union Township Zoning Officer has determined that only building permits were required for the construction. No variances are required. Therefore the Union Township Planning Board has no jurisdiction over the project.

**VI. Transportation**

Mr. Harclerode and Amy Switlyk (Clinton Twp.) met with Senator Marcia Karrow. There are five bills in existence and Ms. Karrow is trying to get a joint meeting of the Assembly and Senate committees so that Mr. Harclerode and Ms. Switlyk can make a presentation to all groups at once. Mr. Harclerode has also asked for a one on one meeting with the Attorney General.

**VII. Communication and Education**

1. Ms. McBride forwarded a draft of the April Newsletter for discussion at this meeting. Mrs. Corcoran commented that this version is the best one yet. Mr. LaTournous mentioned that the articles are relevant. The Stink Bug article was provided by Christina Bilinski, a resident. There were very minor comments on spelling/format. Mr. Hurford made a

motion to forward the newsletter to the Township Committee for approval. Mrs. Corcoran seconded and all approved.

2. Chuck La Tournous contacted Paul Fitting re: the website. The last newsletter has been posted and the current draft will be posted. Mr. LaTournous will be responsible for maintenance of the website on behalf of the UTEC.

**VIII. Sidney Brook Study**

Bill Harclerode and Chuck Neary attended the latest meeting on April 7 at 5:30 with the NJWSA, NJDEP and Princeton Hydro at the Township. Michele McBride attended for the first hour of the meeting. Sydney Brook E coli results were elevated well above acceptable levels in some areas. Results of the summer geomean ranged from 395 to 3094, with higher results occurring after rain events. This is not uncommon. Macroinvertebrate analyses are currently underway. Fish surveys and priority pollutant sampling will be conducted later this spring. After this is complete, the final report can be issued.

**IX. Adjournment:**

Mr. Neary made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Corcoran, all approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Corcoran, Secretary